



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

The American People: A Study in National Psychology. By A. MAURICE LOW, Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1909. Pp. 446. \$2.25 net.

To dissent from the publishers' assertion that this book is "a masterly study in national psychology and a notable contribution to history" is not to deny that the work has interest, charm of style, and value for the general reader. To the social psychologist the volume cannot fail to be a disappointment. The author's idea of the function of the psychologist of history is "from the summit of the present to look back with clear vision on the past, and with the advantage of unobscured view, free from the distraction of being an actor in the scene of life, behold the causes that produced results, observe the play of daedalian forces which once released gain from within themselves new impulses and form fresh centers of energy, and with the past and present as a guide develop the future" (p. 8). Measured by this ambitious program, the results of Mr. Low's study are meager and by no means novel. Only the beginnings—the colonial period—of the national life are considered. "In the history of early struggles is found the cradle" (p. 67). That a new society with its own customs, standards, and institutions has grown up in the United States, that the natural environment has profoundly influenced the people as a whole and helped to differentiate provincial types, that the Puritan has played a most important part in the national life, that he was by nature a rebel, that he has been much misunderstood and maligned, that the South is to be interpreted largely in terms of cotton and rice, that democracy was a natural outgrowth of pioneer conditions, are theses that few students of the social sciences would think of challenging.

The author uses the word "race" as though it were synonymous with nation (p. 6). Although he says, "Climate, environment, social conditions, and a system of political philosophy far-reaching in its moral influence have produced not a mongrel race but mentally and physically a new race" (p. 20), in his discussion he lays little stress upon biological changes. These he attributes to intermixture of races rather than to modifications due to physical environment. The use of the word "race" is unfortunate because that term has a certain technical meaning which produces a confusion of ideas. It suggests the startling discovery, periodically exploited in the press, that Americans are being molded by physical conditions to an aboriginal Indian type. As a matter of fact Mr. Low is concerned

with what Sumner would call the formation of American folkways and mores.

In describing the influence on American colonial life, of climate, soil, contour, waterways, and occupations, the author is much more successful in his detailed treatment of New England and the South than he is in the opening chapters on the general effects of natural conditions on society. Here he follows Buckle, Spencer, Bagehot, and Huxley, while in the former studies he is obviously guided by Shaler and Semple. If Mr. Low were more familiar with the work of Ratzel, Ripley, and Demolins he would probably attribute less influence to Buckle's "aspect of nature" and more to the indirect effects of nature mediated through economic activities and interests.

Even if this book is likely to prove disappointing to the social psychologist and to the historian, it deserves a hearty welcome among intelligent lay readers. Mr. Low's style, although rather too metaphorical for close scientific treatment, has a true literary quality and gives vividness and force to his presentation. He is primarily a literary, historical essayist although he speaks slightly of what he calls the "literary entrepreneur" (p. 5). The book as a whole lacks the coherence of a work unified by comprehensive and illuminating principles of interpretation. It is significant of the isolation of different groups of workers that Mr. Low should describe as "a Study in National Psychology" a book based upon bibliography of more than one hundred and fifty titles which include no single work by any contemporary psychologist or psychological sociologist.

G. E. V.

Equal Suffrage. The Results of an Investigation in Colorado for the Collegiate Equal Suffrage League of New York State. By HELEN SUMNER, PH.D. New York and London: Harper & Brothers, 1909, Pp. xxxvi+282.

To those who are interested in woman's suffrage in this country, and who have been watching with some misgivings the methods which have been used for propagandist purposes, if not by the majority, at least by the conspicuous, it is an encouraging sign, first, that a non-partisan and scientific investigation of suffrage should be undertaken by the suffragists themselves and, second, that so practical and useful an undertaking as an examination of the fruits of